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Translation of

RETURN TO THE FAITH OF YOUR FOREFATHERS

A Tract for Italians

Prepared by the
REV. T. E. DELLA CIOPPA
and Indorsed by
The Italian Priests' Association

Sanctioned for use in the Dioceses of the Province of New England by the Bishops of the Province

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Committee on the Various Races

WHOSOEVER YOU ARE BEFORE READING THIS TRACT PRAY AS FOLLOWS:

Inspire me, O Lord, to do Thy will and to walk in Thy ways, while I read these pages; Through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Seek the faith which will form your character, sustain you in this life, and save you in death, and pray for all those who have erred and are deceived, and are in danger of being lost forever.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE Churches of England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, of America, Japan, China, and of all English and American possessions, form the Anglican Church or Communion, with more than thirty million communicants.

In America this Church is commonly called *Episcopal*, because she keeps the Holy Orders of the Ecclesiastical Ministry through Bishops. She protests against all additions to and subtractions from the Catholic Faith. For this reason she recognizes neither the Papal authority nor the doctrine and discipline which are exclusively derived from the Popes, and consequently she is not *Roman*.

This Church holds the two Sacraments of the Gospel directly instituted by Christ as necessary to salvation, Baptism and the Holy Eucharist, and administers the Sacramental Rites of Confirmation, Absolution and Holy Order and solemnizes Matrimony. Therefore, in the Episcopal Church, children and adults are baptized by the pouring on of water, or by immersion, in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and the Mass is celebrated under the title of Holy Commun-

ion, or Holy Eucharist, and not only the Body but also the Blood of Christ is delivered to the faithful in the consecrated wafer or bread, and in the consecrated wine, according to the institution of Christ and the practice of many centuries of the Catholic Church. Our Bishops confirm boys and girls after they have reached the age of discretion and have ratified in their presence the promises and vows made for them by their godfathers and godmothers; and receive into the full communion of the Church those who, previously confirmed by Bishops of the Latin or Greek churches, make open and sincere profession of the Faith among us. In the Episcopal Church, all those who confess their sins to Almighty God, being truly penitent, are declared absolved, and private confession, followed by the Absolution of a Priest, is not compulsory, though encouraged when the need is felt; Deacons, Priests and Bishops are elevated to Holy Orders, and they are not prohibited from marrying, if they so desire; marriage is blessed and divorce is opposed; the sick and the dying are ministered to and absolved, the Communion is given to them and, in some cases, unction is administered, if desired.

In the Episcopal Church every act of worship is performed with great dignity, be it the Celebration of the Holy Communion, read or sung; Public Baptism of

Infants or Adults; Matrimonial Blessing; Burial Service; Morning Prayer or Matins; Evening Prayer or Vespers, etc. All these services are contained in that book which is known as "The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church," which covers largely the Breviary, the Missal, the Ritual and the Pontifical, and is used at the same time by the officiating clergy and by the people, and in as many languages as the nations or races that may use it.

In this book are found

The Apostles' or Baptismal Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene or Eucharistic Creed:

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God; Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God; Begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father; By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man: And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried: And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures: And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father: And he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

Among the various prayers and collects in the same book are the following:

The Collect for the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that, as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an Angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for the Feast of St. Michael and all Angels:

O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order; Mercifully grant that, as they holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so, by thy appointment, they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

The Collect for All Saints' Day:

O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship, in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord; Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for those who unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Closing Prayer of the Office of Institution:

O Almighty God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone; Grant that, by the operation of the Holy Ghost, all Christians may be so joined together in unity of spirit, and in the bond of peace, that they may be an holy temple acceptable unto thee. And especially in this Congregation present, give the abundance of thy grace; that with one heart they may desire the prosperity of thy holy Apostolic Church, and with one mouth may profess the faith once delivered to the Saints. Defend them from the sins of heresy and schism; let not the foot of pride come nigh to hurt them, nor the hand of the ungodly to cast them down. And grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; that so they may walk in the ways of truth and peace, and at last be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting; through thy merits, O blessed Jesus, thou gracious Bishop and Shepherd of our souls, who art with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God, world without end. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer contains also the Feasts of the Saints and of the

Blessed Virgin Mary, for whom the Church teaches only deep reverence, although she does not make any act of worship to them, nor prayers to their statues or images.

The surplice and stole and other sacred vestments, the cassock of the priest, the Altar or Holy Table, etc., are in general according to the ancient form, when the Church of our Fathers was more pure, more simple, and followed more faithfully the spirit of Christ.

In the Episcopal Church the Holy Bible in its integrity is often read, and always in the Lessons of Matins and Vespers, and in the Epistle and Gospel for each Sunday.

The Episcopal Church must not be confounded with the envangelical bodies, for, although she nourishes fraternal love for all those who profess and call themselves Christians, and believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, yet she holds as essential, Apostolic Orders through Bishops and the complete and uncorrupted Catholic Faith, such as is held as essential by the Orthodox or Greek Catholic Church and all other Catholic non-Roman Communions.

Briefly, the Doctrine, the Rites and the Laws of the Episcopal Church present more truthfully the ancient Catholic Church, to which belonged our fathers and the Martyrs, the Apostles, and other great Saints—such as St. Clement of

Rome, St. Nicholas of Bari, St. Cyprian, St. Jerome, St. Ambrose of Milan, St. Anselm, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Catherine of Sienna, etc., etc.

Every Italian who is no longer attending the Papal Church, because he is unsatisfied with its discipline and religious practices, ought to come to the Episcopal Church, with his children and family, and to bring others to it; since in this way he would not renounce the Catholic heritage, but surely improve it, having everything to gain and nothing to lose. He would be always welcomed.

In time of death one could not have better comfort than that of being a loyal and faithful son of this Holy, Merciful Mother who leads souls to God through the Catholic and Apostolic Faith.

Prayer for a Good Death:

O God, whose days are without end, and whose mercies cannot be numbered; Make us, we beseech thee, deeply sensible of the shortness and uncertainty of human life, and let they Holy Spirit lead us through this vale of misery, in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives: that, when we shall have served thee in our generation, we may be gathered unto our fathers, having the testimony of a good conscience; in the communion of the Catholic Church; in the confidence of a certain faith; in the comfort of a reasonable, religious and holy hope; in favour with thee our God, and in perfect charity with the world. All which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ITALIANS,

If this booklet falls into your hands, and God inspires you with the desire of following Him, seek one of the numerous Episcopal Parishes of this country, a Rector or Priest, American or Italian and you will be led by them on the right road to happiness and to the Blessing of God.

The Almighty and Merciful Lord, the Father, Son and Holy, Ghost, bless, preserve and keep you, now and forevermore.

Verbo divin, dal seno
Del Genitor disceso,
Tu, che, nel volger pieno
De' tempi, in terra atteso
Venisti a sollevar
I nostri affanni;

Illumina, accendendo
Dell'amor tuo, le menti,
Si ch'elle il vero udendo
De' profectici accenti
Sappiansi omai salvar
Da tant'inganni.

E allor che i cori umani
Tutti a scrutar verrai,
E, svelati gli arcani,
Gli empi fulminerai,
Dando a ogni tuo fedel
premio di vita,

Deh non ci sian gli errori
Gastigo, o Dio, condegno,
Ma fa' che abitatori
Perpetui del tuo regno
Godiam coi Santi in ciel
Gloria infinita.